SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

15 JAN 1999

$2.95

Mature Readers

Carole Curtis

Katmandu

AND ADRIAN KLEINBERGENAT '98

Fisher too!

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Carole often says lately "I wish I had a plain vanilla life." Since many of you saw us at Confurence a year ago, Carole was diagnosed with polysystic ovary syndrome and had surgery for atypical polysystic adenomas, which luckily were precancerous. In the fall, I went to a doctor and found I had melanoma of the left eye, rendering me virtually blind there. Plus I took radiation therapy for it. And our comics, although completed, were delayed from March to October.

But we go on. Our friends believe in us and that helps. Now KATMANDU and SHANDA are back on a regular schedule. Joining them in April will be NAUTILUS, a limited series which was originally developed as "Shanda in Space" and became a mystery.

From the depths we persevere. We are preparing new T shirts, and will debut TEN comics at Confurence this year! NEW HORIZONS #5, KATMANDU #16, SHANDA #24, NAUTILUS #1, SFA SPOTLIGHT 4 and 5, with Carl Gafford's ZEBRA and Richard Thatcher's TALES OF THE MORPHING PERIOD; SFA INTERNATIONAL #2, GIANT SHANDA ANIMAL #4 and two daring projects. An ALL-TEXT book FANTASTIC FURRY STORIES and a CHILDREN'S furry comic, MAGIC CARPET, starring QUINN!

Thanks to all of you for standing ny our sides, for encouraging us through email and kind words at conventions. Speaking of which, looks for us at

CONFURENCE
ANTHROCON
MEMPHIT FURMEET
And Carole at DUCKON
and Mike at SPX.

Mικε

CAROLE CURTIS'S KATMANDU is published quarterly by SHANDA FANTASY ARTS PO BOX 2452 CONWAY ARK 72032 shandafa@cyberback.com. All KATMANDU characters are copyrighted by Carole Curtis. All art and stories are copyright by their creators. Nothing from this book may be reproduced without express written permission of the copyright holders except for short excerpts for advertising and reviews. No similiarity to any person place or thing is intended and any is coincidental. " Tail high!"

Katmandu

"The Search for Magic"

~ Conclusion ~

LISKA, PYNDAN AND RIAL ARE ON A VISION-QUEST TO ESTABLISH LISKA'S WARRIOR STATUS...

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS
PENCILS: SHAWNTAE HOWARD
INKS: A. KLEINBERGEN
COVER MAGIC: SHANE FISHER
LETTERING: FENDER

WHY?

I'M NOT THAT GOOD A COOK.

IMMATERIAL.

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS AT THE **FIRE.**

I! AM! NOT! YOUR COOK! OR BED SLAVE!

SWIPE!

LISKA--

WHY DON'T YOU PUT THAT AWAY...

AND YOU TWO **TALK** THIS OUT?

YOU ARE A WOMAN!

I AM A WARRIOR!

I WILL BE TREATED AS A WARRIOR!

YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE BECOME ONE!

IT WAS NOT YOUR DECISION TO MAKE!

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN!

~mmm~ GOOOD MEAT...

WHAT WAS THAT **COMEDY** WITH THE PIEBALD SLAVE?

WHAT COMEDY?

THE ONE YOU PLAYED IN HER **TENT.**

I PLAYED NO COMEDY.

I AM A **WARRIOR.** I RIDE, HUNT AND **FIGHT.**

MY WIFE MASSAGES MY BACK, CLEANS, AND COOKS.

THAT'S **NOT** IT...

--AND COOLS MY FIRES. YOU ***DIDN'T*** DO THAT WITH YOUR LARGE-TEATED SLAVE?

YOU **DID**, DIDN'T YOU? OF **COURSE.** YOU'RE NOT MARRIED, WHY **SHOULDN'T** YOU?

AND WHY SHOULDN'T I?

SHE WASN'T YOU.

I WONDER IF THEY **KILLED** EACH OTHER?

?

AH!

WELL, LISKA AND RIAL WERE BUSY BECOMING...

FRIENDLIER.

WHAT DID PYNDAN **SEE**, MOTHER?

IT WAS **GROWN-UP** STUFF, KEMAL. . .LIKE WHEN MOM AND DAD CHASE US OUT OF THEIR ROOM.

OH.

LOANZAH IS GETTING SMARTER.

TAKES AFTER DADDY.

I'LL **FINISH** THE STORY AS WE WALK BACK TO THE **JEEP.**

IS THE END **THAT** CLOSE?

ALMOST. BY THE TIME WE'RE HOME IT'LL BE **OVER.**

"LATER THAT NIGHT, LISKA AND RIAL RETURNED."

I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK.

IT'S TIME.

WHY?

I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE **TOP** AND STAY UNTIL **DAYBREAK.**

I'VE GOT THE **SUPPLIES** YOU NEED.

WITH DAYBREAK, YOU **FAST** AND **MEDITATE** UNTIL THE GODDESS APPEARS.

WHAT DO I DO?

WE'LL BE HERE ON THE **PLAINS.**

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE **HARDER** TO REACH THIS SACRED PLACE.

THE TRAIL HAS BEEN USED FOR **GENERATIONS.**

THE **SUN'S** COMING UP.

I'VE GOT TO **LEAVE**, QUICKLY.

TAKE THIS BAG OF **POLLEN.** SPRINKLE LINES IN THE FOUR DIRECTIONS, LEADING TO WHERE YOU **SIT.** THIS WILL HELP THE GODDESS TO **FIND** YOU.

I'LL HOLD YOU IN MY THOUGHTS, LISKA.

WELL, THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF ONE MEAL.

BETTER THAN WHAT LISKA'S HAVING.

HOW LONG CAN SHE STAY UP THERE?

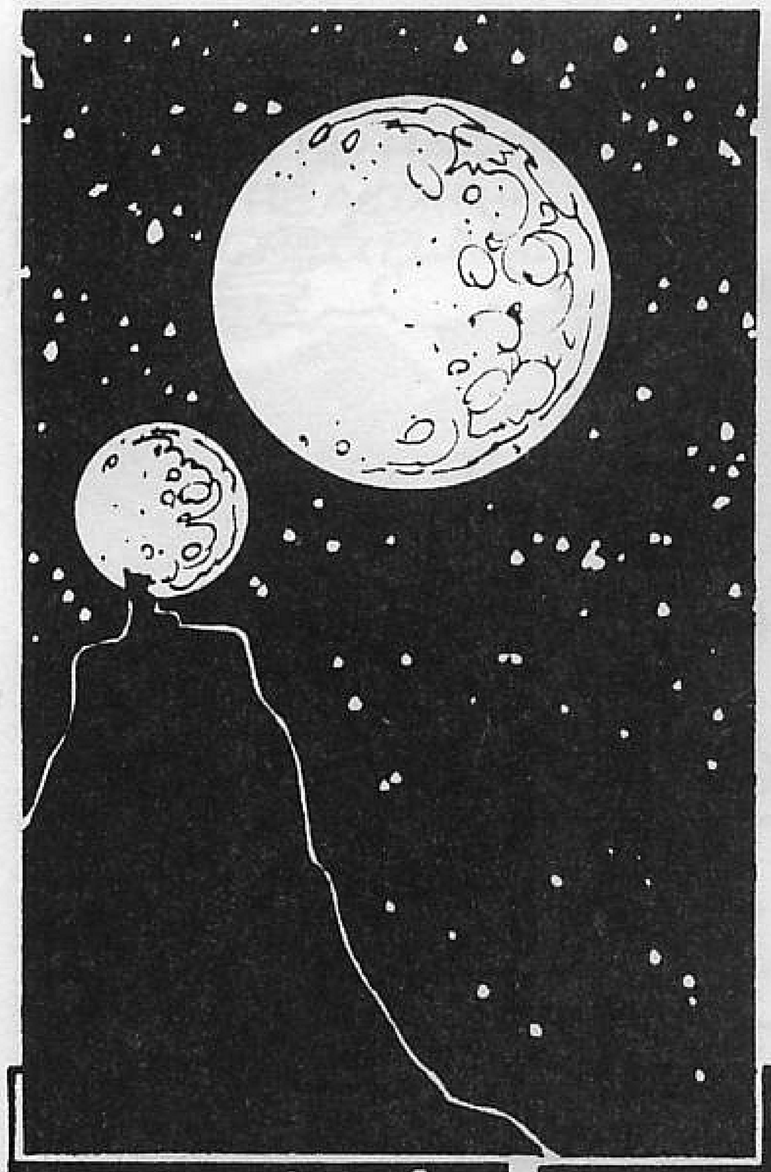
SNIFF SNIFF

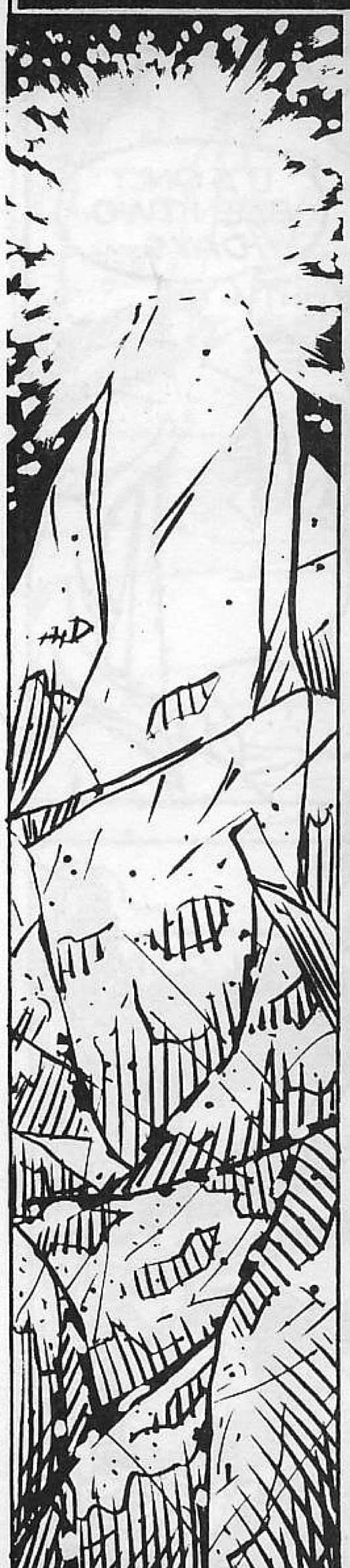
IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS.

ONE WARRIOR SPENT FIVE DAYS BEFORE HE CAME DOWN.

BUT IF SHE'S NOT BACK TOMORROW--

WE'LL CLIMB TO THE CREST.





LISKA MITSEL-EMAN, WHY DO YOU SUMMON ME?

MY LADY-- I AM NOT A WARRIOR CHIEF.

NOT YET. RISE AND BEHOLD.

YOU ARE LISKA, AS ARE THEY. THESE ARE VISIONS OF WHAT COULD BE, AND WILL BE--

DEPENDING UPON THE COURSE YOU CHOOSE.

MY DAUGHTERS, PRESENT YOURSELVES TO THIS SUPPLICANT.

I AM LISKA, SLAVE TO RIAL. WHEN HE WAS TAKEN IN THE RAID, I BECAME THE PROPERTY OF SANNA.

PYNDAN HELPED UNTIL HE FELL IN BATTLE. I BECAME A "TORN SKIRT", PROSTITUTING MYSELF TO FEED US. SANNA AND I LIVE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, AND I SPEAK TO NO ONE, SAVE MY CHILDREN.

I AM LISKA, WIFE OF RIAL. I BORE HIM STRONG, HEALTHY KITTENS. . .TWO LITTERS. I TOOK GOOD CARE OF MY HUSBAND, UNTIL HE DIED DEFENDING OUR VILLE.

I HAD MANY SUITORS. THE WARRIOR I CHOOSE WAS OLDER, AND VENERATED. NOW, HE DRINKS AND GAMBLES. MY CHILDREN. . .STARVE. SANNA IS LONG DEAD. SHE WENT TO THE MOUNTAINS SO THAT WE COULD EAT.

I AM LISKA MITSEL-EMAN, WARRIOR CHIEF OF THE HIGHLAND PEOPLE. MY TENTS ARE FULL. MY WIVES WEAR SOFT SHOES AND GIVE ME STRONG MALE AND COMELY FEMALE CHILDREN. I LEAD MY PEOPLE IN PEACE AND WAR. MY NAME IS SUNG AT CAMPFIRES. MY ENEMIES TREMBLE.

YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR TRIBE AND RENOUNCE YOUR WARRIOR STATUS--BECOME RIAL'S SLAVE ONCE AGAIN, UNLESS HE CHOOSES TO TAKE YOU TO WIFE--OR YOU MAY CONTINUE THE PATH OF THE WARRIOR.

I CHOOSE TO BE A **WARRIOR.**

A WARNING, DEAR SISTER.

IF YOU FOLLOW THE PATH OF WIFE OR SLAVE, YOU WILL DIE IN YOUR SLEEP, PEACEFULLY.

THE WARRIOR'S FATE IS TO DIE IN BATTLE, IN PAIN...

...ALONE.

MY LADY I ASK YOUR **BLESSING.** I WILL SPEND MY DAYS FOLLOWING THE **WARRIOR'S** TRAIL.

I MAY DIE **ALONE,** BUT MY **LINE** WILL CONTINUE, THROUGH MY **CHILDREN.**

LISKA MITSEL-EMAN, YOU HAVE MY BLESSING.

WHOOF!

HEY! THETIS! GET BACK HERE!

-RRRRRRRRRRRRR-

YES, THETIS... GOOD GIRL! YOU ARE THE FIRST TO MEET ME.

WE HAVE MANY BATTLES AHEAD, YOU AND I.

YOU'RE **WORKING** TOO HARD.

BUT IT TAKES MY **MIND** OFF MISSING **LISKA**...

SHAYGIN, LET'S GO **WASH** AT THE STREAM.

ELISHAA, I'VE **DONE** THE WASHING.

I **MEAN**, WASH **OURSELVES**!

YOU'RE ALL **SWEATY**! COME ON!

ELISHAA, YOU LOOK- A LITTLE- **BIG**.

ABOUT **TIME** YOU NOTICED!

MARKREE AND I HAVE A **KITTEN** IN THE **BASKET**.

I'M SORRY, SISTER.

I KNOW HOW **MUCH** YOU WANT ONE YOURSELF.

ELISHAA--I SEE **RIDERS!** THREE OF THEM!

I'VE GOT TO GET **BACK!**

WE WILL MEET WITH THE **CHIEF** AND **SENESCHAL** IN THE MORNING TO DISCUSS YOUR **VISION.**

SHAYGIN WILL BE **ANXIOUS** TO SEE YOU.

YES!

I'LL SEE YOU **TOMORROW,** RIAL, PYNDAN.

COME, THETIS... TIME FOR YOU TO **REST.**

RRR?

SHAYGIN WILL HAVE SWEET CORN FOR YOU TOMORROW.

WELCOME, MY HUSBAND! YOUR TENT HAS BEEN **COLD** AND **LONELY** IN YOUR ABSENCE.

NOW MY HEART SINGS, FOR YOU ARE **HOME.**

GREETINGS, WIFE.

DO YOU WISH DINNER? ARE YOU **HUNGRY,** MY HUSBAND?

YES.

BUT NOT FOR FOOD.

I HAVE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO HAVE SUCH AN APPETITE, MY HUSBAND.
HMM. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT MYSELF ON THIS TRIP.

OH?
YES...
AND ABOUT MY FUTURE.

ARE THERE KITTENS IN OUR FUTURE?
YES, IN A FEW MONTHS.

I LAY WITH RIAL, SHAYGIN. I AM WITH CHILD.
BUT I AM A WARRIOR.
WILL YOU BE MOTHER TO OUR KITTENS?

YES, MY HUSBAND.
IT IS WHAT I HAVE DREAMED OF.

"LISKA TOLD HER VISION TO THE CHIEF AND SENSCHAL. THEY LISTENED IN AWE AND WITH RESPECT. SHE GAINED GREAT FACE WITH HER PEOPLE. BECAUSE OF HER VISION, SHE WAS SOON LISTENED-TO IN COUNCIL WITH MORE RESPECT. HER ADVICE PROVED SOUND, AND--"

LEAH, I THINK THAT'S AS **FAR** AS YOUR STORY SHOULD GO TONIGHT.

YOU'VE **LOST** YOUR AUDIENCE.

JUST FOR **TONIGHT**. THEY'LL WANT MORE **TOMORROW**.